
Greece is facing a third day of protests against the shooting dead of a 15-year-old boy by a police officer on Saturday night. The alleged murder has caused two days of riots in cities across the country. From Athens, Malcolm Brabant has sent this report:

These have been the worst riots in years and, although it was quiet overnight, the protests **show no sign of abating**.

If the demonstrations were **spontaneous outpourings of** anger to start with, they are now showing signs of being politically **agitated** by opposition parties keen **to pile pressure on** a very vulnerable government. The Greek communist party has called a mass rally in central Athens for later today, as has another party called the coalition of the left. The main socialist opposition party has urged Greeks **to denounce** the government, although the party's youth wing called for peaceful protests.

Most of the clashes have happened in university cities across Greece and have involved students. They have now been **given the go-ahead to carry on** by their tutors because the university professors have announced that they will **stage a three day walkout** from today.

Greece's interior minister Prokopis Pavlopoulos has said that he understands people's anger, but he has condemned the violence for **undermining** social peace and targeting the property of innocent people.

The victim of the police shooting has been named as 15 year old Alexandros Grigoropoulos. One police officer has been charged with murder and another with being **an accomplice**.

Malcolm Brabant, BBC News, Athens

Vocabulary and definitions

show no sign of abating	don't seem likely to become less violent or end soon
spontaneous outpourings of	an uncontrollable expression of strong feelings that arises from natural impulse, not from planning or external influences
agitated	here, trying to arouse/win public support (for a certain cause or, as here, a political party)
to pile pressure on	to increase demands and/or forceful influences (in order to make someone do something)
to denounce	to criticise and/or accuse strongly and publicly
given the go-ahead	given the permission
carry on	continue
stage a three day walkout	go on a three day strike
undermining	here, destroying
an accomplice	someone who helps someone else to do something wrong (e.g. to commit a crime)

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7770887.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/12/081208_greece_protest.shtml